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Environmental Protection
Agency

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Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT MAHONINGSIDE POWER PLANT SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup of the Mahoningside Power Plant site (Warren, OH) is now under way. Residents and area businesses can expect to see workers in protective clothing and construction vehicles at the property through December.

The site, 650 Summit St., formerly known as Warren Water and Light Co., is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and mercury.

The City of Warren, which hopes to see the property redeveloped, discovered high PCB levels during its demolition of the former power plant this past spring. Over the next few months, City-managed contractors removed more than 400 tons of contaminated debris from the power plant, and established a water-treatment system to filter contaminated water generated by the cleanup, as well as to contain all PCB contamination at the site. In July, the City requested EPA's assistance in completing the cleanup. In August, a Cleveland-based EPA Superfund emergency response team took over management of the water treatment system and was

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approved for an initial \$450,000 budget to proceed with the project.

EPA's current work at the Mahoningside site includes removal of PCB-contaminated debris from power plants's basement sumps, drains, and piping. By late next week, the Agency expects to be assessing the ground beneath and around the basement to determine if PCB contamination has migrated from the immediate area. Based on these findings, EPA will recommend follow-up removal or on-site cleanup steps.

In addition, EPA will sample and assess potentially contaminated sediments in the Mahoning River, which is approximately one mile to the south. Since the 1970's, storm-water and ground-water runoff from the site have drained into the river.

The City of Warren will continue to work closely with EPA on the cleanup, and has provided in-kind logistical and utility services.

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